

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Hirokazu TAKENAKA, Hisao SHIRASAWA, Yuki MATSUSHIMA
Serial No. : Not Yet Known
Date Filed : Herewith
For : IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the information identified herein is also provided.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, filed concurrently herewith, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The following commonly-owned U.S. patent applications are brought to the attention of the Examiner:

- (a) U.S. Patent Application No. 431,999, filed November 2, 1999;

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- (b) U.S. Patent Application No. 726,559, filed December 1, 2000; and
- (c) U.S. Patent Application No. 903,577, filed July 13, 2001.

Copy of the commonly-owned U.S. patent application (b) is enclosed herewith.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office							Atty. Docket No. 2271/71084	Serial No. Not Yet Known			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)									Applicants: Hirokazu TAKENAKA et al.				
									Filing Date: Herewith	Group Art Unit:			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
Examiner Initial		Document Number				Date		Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate		
		5	2	9	9	0	2	5	3-29-94	Shirasawa			
		5	6	8	9	5	9	0	11-18-97	Shirasawa et al.			
		5	6	9	6	8	4	2	12-9-97	Shirasawa et al.			
		6	1	3	7	5	9	5	10-24-00	Sakuyama et al.			
		6	2	2	6	0	1	1	5-1-01	Sakuyama et al.			
		20	01	/0	05	29	9	0	12-20-01	Shirasawa			
		20	02	/0	12	21	9	3	9-5-02	Shirasawa			
		20	03	/0	02	09	7	4	1-30-03	Matsushima			
		20	03	/0	09	94	0	7	5-29-03	Matsushima			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS													
		Document Number				Date		Country	Class	Subclass	Translation		
											Yes		
											No		
JP	1	1-	2	2	5	2	7	9	8-17-99	Japan		Abstract	
JP	20	01	-	8	6	3	6	0	3-30-01	Japan		Abstract	
JP	20	02	-	1	0	0	9	6	1-11-02	Japan		Abstract	
JP	20	02	-	3	3	9	3	0	1-31-02	Japan		Abstract	
JP	20	02	-1	8	5	8	0	8	6-28-02	Japan		Abstract	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)													
		U.S. Patent Application No. 431,999, filed November 2, 1999.											
		U.S. Patent Application No. 726,559, filed December 1, 2000.											
		U.S. Patent Application No. 903,577, filed July 13, 2001.											
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED								
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>													